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## IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 33 without prejudice or disclaimer, rewrite claims 34-36, 38, 40, 41, 46, 48 and 50, and add new claim 51, as shown below in the detailed listing of all claims which were, or are, in the application:

## Claims 1-33 (Canceled)

- 34. (Currently amended) The labeling reactant of claim 33 claim 51, wherein **R** is a member of the group consisting of 4,4'dimethoxytrityl, 4-methoxytrityl, trityl, and (9-phenyl)xanthen-9-yl.
- 35. (Currently amended) The labeling reactant of claim 33 claim 51, wherein X" is a member of the group consisting of t-butyldimethylsilyl-, tetrahydropyranyl, 1-(2-fluorophenyl)-4-methoxypiperidin-4-yl-, 1-[2-chloro-4-methyl)phenyl]-4-metoxypiperidin-4-yl-, 4-methoxytetrahydropyran-4-yl-, phthaloyl-, acetyl, pivaloyl-, benzoyl-, 4-methylbenzoyl, benzyl-, and trityl.
- 36. (Currently amended) The labeling reactant of claim 33 claim 51, wherein G is a protected functional group.

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- 37. (Previously presented) The labeling reactant of claim 36, wherein said protected functional group is selected from the group consisting of amino, carboxyl, aminooxy and thiol.
- 38. (Currently amended) The labeling reactant of claim 33 claim 51, wherein G is an organic dye.
- 39. (Previously presented) The labeling reactant of claim 38, wherein said organic dye is selected from the group consisting of dabsyl, dansyl, fluorescein, rhodamine and tetramethyl-6-carboxyrhodamine (TAMRA).
- 40. (Currently amended) The labeling reactant of claim 33 claim 51, wherein the temporary protecting group R is 4,4'-dimethoxytrityl.
- 41. (Currently amended) The labeling reactant of claim 33 claim 51, wherein said reactant is a nucleotide and the sugar of the nucleotide is 2-deoxyribose or 3-deoxyribose.
- 42. (Previously presented) The labeling reactant of claim 41, wherein X' is hydroxyl.

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- 43. (Previously presented) The labeling reactant of claim 42, wherein the permanent protection group X" of X' is selected from the group consisting of t-butyldimethylsilyl, tetrahydropyranyl, 1-(2-fluorophenyl)-4-methoxypiperidin-4-yl-, 1-[2-chloro-4-methyl)phenyl]-4-methoxypiperidin-4-yl- and 4-methoxytetrahydropyran-4-yl-.
- 44. (Previously presented) The labeling reactant of claim 41, wherein X" is an alkyl or alkoxyalkyl.
- 45. (Previously presented) The labeling reactant of claim 44, wherein X" is selected from the group consisting of methyl, methoxymethyl and ethoxymethyl.
- 46. (Currently amended) The labeling reactant of claim 33 claim 51, wherein G is a bivalent aromatic structure.

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47. (Previously presented) The labeling reactant of claim 46, wherein G is selected from the group consisting of

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48. (Currently amended) The labeling reactant of claim 33 claim 51, wherein said reactant is non-luminescent and G is selected from a group consisting of

and wherein

R"' is an alkyl of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, allyl, ethyltrimethylsilyl, phenyl or benzyl, which phenyl or benzyl can be substituted or unsubstituted, and one of the hydrogen atoms is substituted with E'.

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- 49. (Previously presented) The labeling reactant of claim 48, wherein R"' is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and allyl.
- 50. (Currently amended) The labeling reactant of claim 33 claim 51, wherein the labeling reactant is selected from the group consisting of
- 2'-deoxy-5'-0-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-N3 (tetramethyl 2,2',2",2"'-[(4-(1-hexyn-5-yl)pyridine-2,6-diyl) bis(methylennenitrilo))tetrakis(acetato) uridine 3'-0-(2-cyanoethyl N,N-diisopropyl) phosphoramidite,
- N3-[6-[4-(dimethylamino) azobenzene-4'-sulfonamido] hex-1-yl-5'-O-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl) thymidine <math>3'-O-(2-cyanoethyl N,N-diisopropyl) phosphoramidite,
- 5'-0-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-N3-{tetramethyl-2,2',2",2"'-{6,6'-{4'-hydroxyethoxyethoxyphenylethynyl}pyridine-2,6-diyl}bis(methylenenitrilo)tetrakis(acetato)}thymidine3'-0-(2-cyanoethyl N,N-diisopropyl) phosphoramidite, and
- 2'-deoxy-5'-0-(4,4'-dimethoxytrityl)-3-6-{{4-{6,6"-bis[N,N-bis(methoxycarbonylmethyl)aminomethyl]-2,2':6',2"-terpyridine-4'-yl)phenyl)hex-5-yn-1-yl}uridine 3'-[0-{2-cyanoethyl}-N,N-diisopropyl)phosphoramidite.

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51. (New) A labeling reactant of formula (I) suitable for labeling an oligonucleotide

wherein

R is a protecting group or is hydrogen;

A is either a phosphorylating moiety —OL" where L is O, S, or is not present

L' is H, L"'CH2CH2CN or L"'Ar, where Ar is phenyl or its substituted derivative, where the substituent is nitro or chlorine, and L"' is O or S;

L" is  $O^-$ ,  $S^-$ , Cl,  $N(i-Pr)_2$ ; or

A is a solid support tethered to Z via a linker arm, which is formed of one to ten moieties, each moiety being selected from a group consisting of phenylene, alkylene containing 1-12 carbon atoms, ethynediyl, ether, thioether, amide, carbonyl, ester, disulfide, diaza, and tertiary amine;

Z is a bridge point and is formed from

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where

R' is H or X'X", where

X' is -O-, -S-, -N-, ON- or -NH- and X" is a protection group or

X' is -O- and X" is alkyl or alkoxyalkyl;

X is H, alkyl, alkynyl, allyl, Cl, Br, I, F, S, O, NHCOCH(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, NHCOCH<sub>3</sub>, NHCOPh, SPh<sub>3</sub>, OCOCH<sub>3</sub> or OCOPh;

E' is a linker arm between G and Z, bonded to Z at nitrogen in the pyrimidyl ring and is formed of one to ten moieties, each moiety being selected from the group consisting of phenylene, alkylene containing 1-12 carbon atoms, ethynediyl, ether, thioether, amide, carbonyl, ester, disulfide, diaza, and tertiary amine, or is not present;

G is a bivalent aromatic structure, tethered to two iminodiacetic

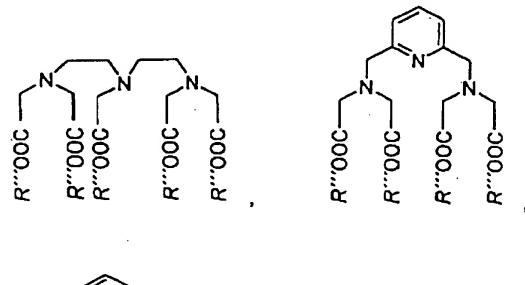
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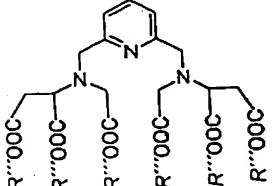
acid ester groups N(CH2COOR"')2 where

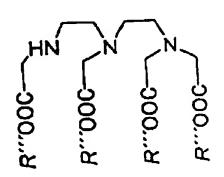
R"' is an alkyl of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, allyl, ethyltrimethylsilyl, phenyl or benzyl, and

said bivalent aromatic structure is capable of absorbing light or energy and transferring the excitation energy to a lanthanide ion after the solid phase synthesis made labeling reactant has been released from the used solid support, deprotected and converted to a lanthanide chelate, or

G is a structure selected from a group consisting of







and

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where

R"' is an alkyl of 1 to 4 carbon atoms, allyl ethyltrimethylsilyl, phenyl or benzyl, and

one of the hydrogen atoms is substituted with E', or

**G** is a protected functional group, where the functional group is amino, aminooxy, carboxyl, thiol, and the protecting group is pthaloyl, trityl, 2-(4-nitrophenylsulfonyl)ethoxycarbonyl, fluorenylmethyloxycarbonyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, trifluoroacetyl or t-butoxycarbonyl for amino and aminooxy, alkyl for carbonyl and alkyl or trityl for thiol.